Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05374 301308Z ACTION NEA-10

R 301215Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3349

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 5374

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, PFOR SUBJ: ARAB BOYCOTT

REF CAIRO 5299,

1. AL AKHBAR OF MARCH 30 PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFO ON MEET-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ING OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL IN WHICH ARAB BOYCOTT ON ISRAEL WAS DISCUSSED (REFTEL). SINCE ARTICLE PROVIDES DIFFERENT VIEW OF PROCEEDINGS, IT IS REPORTED FOR INFO OF ADDRESSEES.

2. ARTICLE GIVES IMPRESSION THAT AHER RADWAN, CHIEF OF SAUDI DEL, WAS PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT CLOSED SESSION ATTENDED BY HEADS OF DELS TO DISCUSS RULES GOVERNING BOYCOTT. RADWAN CALLED

FOR RECONSIDERATION OF REGULATIONS, POINTING OUT THAT THEY HAD BEEN FORMULATED 30 YEARS AGO AND WERE AT THAT TIME THE ONLY WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF THE ARABS. TODAY, BY CONTRAST, THEY HAVE NUMEROUS WEAPONS, AND BOYCOTT MUST BE EMPLOYED INTELLIGENTLY SO THAT IT SERVES THE AIMS OF THE ARAB NATION. HE THERFORE SUGGESTED MODIFICATION OF BLACKLIST PROCEDURES, SO THAT ARABS WOULD NOT DEPRIVE THEMSELVES OF OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN CERTAIN PRODUCTS, OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY FOR EXAMPLE, MERELY BECAUSE ONLY COMPANY THAT MAKES THEM HAS BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL. HE OFFERED AS ILLUSTRATION COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, WHICH CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED FROM LIMITED NUMBER OF SOURCES AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO BOYCOTT REGULATIONS.

- 3. APPARENTLY ARAB LEAGUE SECGEN RIAD AGREED WITH ABOVE SUGGESTION, INDICATING THAT ARABS COULD ISOLATE THEMSELVES FROM WORLD BY INSISTING THAT ANYONE WHO DEALS WITH ISRAEL CANNOT DEAL WITH THEM. ON OTHER HAND, BOYCOTT SHOULD BE APPLIED IF THERE ARE REASONABLE SUBSITUTES FOR COMPANIES' PRODUCTS. ILLUSTRATION CHOSEN WAS COCA COLA.
- 4. COMMENT. SAUDI POSITION AS DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING GIVEN THEIR RECENT TENDENCY TO CONSIDER BOYCOTT IN FAIRLY PRAGMATIC MANNER. IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT MODERATE STATES COULD EASILY ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE AND RATIONAL POSITION ON BOYCOTT, AT LEAST IN PRIVATE, BUT ATTITUDE OF HARD LINERS HAS NOT BEEN QUITE AS FORTHCOMING. FACT THAT ISSUES ARE APPARENTLY BEING DISCUSSED, AND THAT REPORTS OF DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING MADE PUBLIC, HOWEVER, IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CERTAINLY ENCOURAGING. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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